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Message Text

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21
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FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 659 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD MAR 4 75
QUOTE:

UNCLAS USUN 659

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNS POP
SUBJ: POPULATION COMMISSION--18TH SESSION; SUMMARY ROUNDUP

1. ON FEBRUARY 28 AFTER MARATHON 8 HOUR MEETING THE POPULATION COMMISSION (POPCOM) COMPLETED A NINE DAY REGULAR SESSION DURING WHICH POPCOM PROPOSED SENSIBLE COURSE FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION BY UN SYSTEM ON WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE (WPC) AND WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION (WPPA). ALSO FOR FIRST TIME POPCOM BEGAN TO COPE WITH BUDGET AND PERSONNEL FACTORS IN POPULATION DIVISION WORK PROGRAM. SESSION ATMOSPHERE WAS FRIENDLY, A PROFESSIONAL AND COOPERATIVE, ALTHOUGH LEVEL BOTH IN NUMBER AND IMPORTANCE OF REPRESENTATION MANY DELEGATIONS AND OBSERVERS THIS IMPORTANT MEETING OF COMMISSION UNFORTUNATELY DISSAPOINTEDLY LOW. SESSION OVERALL CAN BE CHARACTERIZED
AS USEFUL. US DEL TOOK ACTIVE ROLE AND RESULTS WERE ALMOST

ALL IN LINE WITH OUR OBJECTIVES.

2. POPCOM CONCERNED PRINCIPALLY WITH IMPLICATION OF THE WPC FOR POPCOM ITSELF AND FOR THE UN PROGRAM IN THE FIELD OF POP-
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ULATION ON WHICH A POPCOM REPORT TO ECOSOC IS REQUESTED BY

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3344(XXIX) PARAGRAPHS 7 AND 10.
IN ADDITION TO VARIOUS STATEMENTS BY ITS 27 MEMBERS POPCOM
ALSO HEARD REPRESENTATIVES FROM: 1) A NUMBER OF OBSERVER
GOVERNMENTAL DELEGATIONS INCLUDING PORTUGAL AND ITALY;
2) THE DIRECTOR OF THE UN POPULATION DIVISION AND NUMEROUS
MEMBERS DIVISION STAFF; 3) OFFICIALS OF UNITED NATIONS FUND
FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES; 4) UNSYG FOR ESA; 5) RE-
PRESENTATIVES OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OF SEVERL NON-
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL PLANNED
PARENTHOOD FEDERATION AND INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE
SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF POPULATION.

3. REGARDING IMPLICATIONS OF THE WPC FOR ITSELF (SEE PARA 10 OF GA
RES 3344), POPCOM AFTER CONSIDERABLE DEBATE DECIDED IT
DESIRED TO CONTINUE TO BE AN EXPERT, GOVERNMENTAL, FUNCTIONAL
COMMISSION OF ECOSOC ON POPULATION MATTERS. IT ALSO RECOMMENDED
TO ECOSOC THAT IT SHOULD EXAMINE BIENNIALLY AND REPORT TO
ECOSOC THE RESULTS OF THE CONTINUOUS PROCESS OF MONITORING
POPULATION TRENDS AND POLICIES RECOMMENDED IN THE WPPA.
FURTHERMORE POPCOM BELIEVES THAT IT SHOULD PERIODICALLY
CONTRIBUTE ADVICE TO ECOSOC ON REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE
PROGRESS BEING MADE ON THE NUMEROUS RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE WPPA.

4. IN ADDITION TO RESPONDING TO PARAGRAPHS 7 AND 10 OF
GA RES 3344, POPCOM ADDRESSED ITSELF TO PARAGRAPHS 8
AND 9 WHICH REQUEST ECOSOC TO GIVE ATTENTION TO
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WPA AND INVITE ECOSOC TO CON-
SIDER THE MANNER IN WHICH IT SHOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE
OVERALL POLICY GUIDANCE WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM ON POPULATION
RELATED MATTERS. POPCOM RECOMMENDED THAT THERE BE AN IN
DEPTH VIEW OF POPULATION MATTERS BIENNALLY BY ECOSOC
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE WPPA AND IN ADDITION THAT
AT ITS DISCRETION ECOSOC ALSO CONSIDER POPULATION MATTERS
AT OTHER SESSIONS.

5. POPCOM EXPRESSED ITS VIEWS AS WELL ON PARAGRAPH 12 OF
GA RESOLUTION 3344 WHICH INVITED THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO
REPORT TO ECOSOC ON STRENGTHENING THE SECRETARIAT CONSONANT
WITH PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE WPPA. POPCOM EMPHASIZED
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THAT BECAUSE OF IMPORTANT NEW REQUIREMENTS ARISING FROM
WPPA SUCH AS REVIEW AND APPRAISAL AND MONITORING OF
POPULATION TRENDS AND POLICIES WOULD ADD CONSIDERABLY
TO THE ALREADY HEAVY WORK LOAD OF THE SECRETARIAT
THAT IT NEEDED TO BE STRENGTHENED. POPCOM EXPRESSED CONCERN
THERE MIGHT NOT BE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO PERMIT BADLY NEEDED
SECRETARIAT STRENGTHENING. THESE CRUCIAL AREAS (OR SUFFICIENT
EVIDENCE JUSTIFY IT.)

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6. REGARDING POPULATION DIVISION WORK PROGRAM (1976--1979)
IN THE FIELD OF POPULATION, POPCOM CONSIDERED THE OVERALL
NATURE OF THE PROGRAM, ITS BALANCE AMONG COMPONENTS AND
PRIORITIES. POPCOM RECONGIZED
IMPORTANT NEEDS IMPLICIT IN THE WPPA. POPCOM AGREED WITH PROPOSED
INCREASED EMPHASIS ON INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POPULATION AND
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, STRESSING THAT MONITORING
POPULATION TRENDS AND POLICIES WAS ESSENTIAL NEW FUNCTION AND
EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE POPULATION DIVISION AND
POPCOM IN REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE WPPA.

7. POPCOM INDICATED AN INCREASING AWARENESS
OF BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS AND WAS CRITICAL OF THE SECRETARIAT
FOR NOT INITIALLY PROVIDING IT INFORMATION ON FUNDING AND
PERSONNEL NEEDS. DURING SESSION, AT POPCOM INSISTENCE,
SECRETARIAT PRODUCED USEFUL, ESTIMATES OF MON-MONTHS
REQUIRED FOR THE BIENNIAL (1976--1979) PROGRAM AND THIS PROVOKED
CONSIDERABLE POPCOM DISCUSSION IN WHICH US. PARTICIPATED
AND SOME COMPLAINTS DUE TO DIFFICULTIES IN
RELATING ESTIMATES TO THE MANY SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES CONTAINED
IN WORK PROGRAM. POPCOM SUGGESTED NEXT BIENNIAL PROGRAM
SUBMISSION INCLUDE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNING
PERSONNEL AND BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS
AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON RELATED WORK OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC
COMMISSIONS AND OF UN FINANCED TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTERS.
AFTER MOST THOROUGH REVIEW IT HAD EVEN CONDUCTED,
POPCOM ENDORSED THE WORK PROGRAM AND RECOMMENDED ITS
APPROVAL BY ECOSOC, BUT A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING
THE U.S., EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ESPECIALLY ON THE ENDORSE-
MENT OF THE LAST TWO YEARS (1978--1979) OF THE MIDDLE-TERM
PROGRAM.
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